

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02144 180211Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 180139Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7545

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T USUN 2144

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF, EG, IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIANS DISCUSS DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH ARAB GROUP

REF: CAIRO 6702

1. EGYPTIANS MET WITH ARAB GROUP THIS AFTERNOON TO PRESENT DRAFT RESOLUTION WHOSE TEXT IS SAME AS THAT HANDED BY FAHMY TO BRITISH AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK (USUN 2095). MOST SC MEMBERS WERE EVIDENTLY GIVEN TEXT IN CAIRO OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. WE DO NOT YET HAVE FULL READ-OUT OF ARAB GROUP MEETING, BUT WE UNDERSTAND UPSHOT WAS A GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE THREE POINTS IN EGYPTIAN DRAFT: A) STATEMENT THAT FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION APPLIES TO ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, B) REQUEST THAT ISRAEL HONOR ITS OBLIGATIONS AND C) DECISION TO ASK SYG TO DESPATCH A REPRESENTATIVE TO CONVEY SC'S VIEWS TO ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. SOME ARAB DELEGATIONS REPORTEDLY PROPOSED CHANGES. THESE HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY ONE SOURCE AS "INSUBSTANTIAL" AND BY ANOTHER AS "SLIGHTLY SHARPENING" EGYPTIAN TEXT. WE UNDERSTAND ARABS WILL BE GETTING TOGETHER AGAIN MORNING MAY 18 (PRESUMABLY TO IRON OUT AGREEMENT ON THE CHANGES), AND THAT THEY PLAN TO CIRCULATE EGYPTIAN TEXT AS MODIFIED TO NONALIGNED SC MEMBERS THAT AFTERNOON. JORDANIAN DEPUTY NEVERTHELESS TOLD FRENCH COUNSELOR THAT A CONSENSUS STATEMENT

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SECRET

PAGE 02 USUN N 02144 180211Z

HAD NOT BEEN ENTIRELY RULED OUT.

3. EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PERMREP AHMED INFORMED US THIS MORNING THAT EGYPTIAN DEL HAD RECEIVED FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FROM FAHMY TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. AHMED SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONSENSUS WAS MENTIONED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS; INDEED, HE ADDED, THAT MIGHT EVEN BE CAIRO'S PREFERENCE. HOWEVER, INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLEAR THAT THE RESOLUTION MUST BE CIRCULATED. WE REMARKED THAT FLOATING RESOLUTION NOW COULD ONLY RESULT IN A HARDENING PROCESS THAT WOULD UNDERCUT PROSPECTS FOR A CONSENSUS. THIS, WE SAID, WOULD SEEM TO RUN COUNTER TO BOTH EGYPT'S INTEREST AND OURS, AS DISCUSSED BY FONMIN FAHMY AND AMB EILTS. NOTE: WE ASSUME FROM SEVERAL OF AHMED'S REMARKS THAT EGYPTIAN DEL'S INSTRUCTIONS ARRIVED AFTER MAY 15 DISCUSSION BETWEEN FAHMY AND EILTS, BUT WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN.

4. SEVERAL EUROPEAN AND NONALIGNED COUNCIL MEMBERS OPPOSE PROPOSAL TO SEND A MISSION TO ISRAEL, SINCE IT IS EVIDENT FROM FONMIN ALLON'S STATEMENTS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RECEIVED. AT A LUNCHEON MAY 17, FRENCH, BRITISH AND SWEDISH DELEGATES TOLD EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN OFFICERS THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL, WHETHER IN A RESOLUTION OR CONSENSUS, WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT INTO EFFECT AND THEREFORE ABSURD. TANZANIANS, ROMANIANS, AND PAKISTANIS HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS. (NONE OF THESE DELEGATIONS WOULD BE LIKELY TO VOTE AGAINST SUCH A RESOLUTION, BUT THEIR COMMENTS AT THIS STAGE ARE HELPFUL IN LEAVING DOOR OPEN TO CONSENSUS.)

5. WHILE PRESENT DEBATE IS BEING STRETCHED OUT (NEXT FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING WILL PROBABLY NOT OCCUR BEFORE THURSDAY), EVENTS ARE CONSPIRING TO MOVE FORWARD UNDOF DEBATE. TANZANIAN PERMREP TOLD BRITISH AMBASSADOR THAT HE AND HIS GUYANAN COLLEAGUE STRESSED TWO POINTS TO SYRIAN AMBASSADOR: FIRST, THEY WANTED NO REPETITION OF LAST-MINUTE CLIFF-HANGING THAT MARKED LAST UNDOF EXTENSION AND SECOND, THEY BOTH WISHED TO BE IN ALGIERS FOR MAY 30 OPENING OF NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AND HOPED TO CONCLUDE UNDOF EXTENSION BEFORE THEY LEFT. SYG ALSO TOLD GOVERNOR SCRANTON TODAY THAT HE PLANNED TO CALL IN SYRIAN PERMREP VERY SHORTLY IN ORDER TO IMPRESS UPON HIM NEED TO BEGIN

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02144 180211Z

PROCESS OF MANDATE RENEWAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN02144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760191-0551
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760539/aaaabhrh.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 6702
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIANS DISCUSS DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH ARAB GROUP
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, IS, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006